(c) The cost of the project is approximately Rs.2800 crore.

(d) As decided by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), the transmission tariff for the project is recovered from beneficiaries on a monthly fixed cost basis. Based on the same, the average time frame of recovery of the entire cost of the project is about 35 years.

Rural electrification in Bihar

†846. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress and latest status of implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in Bihar; and

(b) the time-frame to cover the unelectrified villages of Bihar under RGGVY and the number of such villages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) Rural Electrification works have been completed in 11,401 un-electrified villages and 29,959 rural households including 22,115 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households have been given electricity connections in Bihar uptill 10.08.2007.

(b) RGGVY envisages electrification of all the un-electrified villages reported by Bihar through its Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted under RGGVY *i.e.* 24,703 un-electrified villages by 2009.

Bids by PSUs for gas prices

847. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the PSUs under his Ministry had participated in the bids invited by a private contractor, engaged in natural gas exploration to determine the sale price of gas;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the rate quoted by each of them;

(c) whether the Ministry had taken up the issue of determining the sale price of natural gas in a realistic manner with other concerned Ministries; and

(d) if so, the response of those Ministries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) The Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) to examine and consider the issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.